Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for providing voice channel-related functions in a telecommunications network, comprising:

~~centrally~~ providing a dialog device at a central location in the network to accommodate a plurality of first voice channel-related functions within the telecommunications network; and

~~non-centrally~~ providing a plurality of announcement devices at distributed locations in the network to accommodate a plurality of second voice channel-related functions within the telecommunications network, the second voice channel-related function being used more frequently than the first voice channel-related functions.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first and second voice channel-related functions are controlled ~~centrally~~at a central location in the network.

3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first voice channel-related functions comprise complex dialog functions, simple dialog functions, tones, and/or announcements and the second voice channel-related functions only include tones, announcements, and/or simple dialog functions.

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first voice channel-related functions are transmitted over a first data transmission network and the second voice channel-related functions are transmitted over the first data transmission network and/or a second data transmission network.

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein a packet-switched data transmission network is employed as the first data transmission network and a circuit-switched data transmission network is employed as the second data transmission network.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the second data transmission network is a public telephone network and the first data transmission network is an IP-based data transmission network.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the second voice channel-related functions are provided by an announcement device located in each case in a network interworking node between the first and second data transmission network.

8. (currently amended) A telecommunications network for providing voice channel-related functions, comprising:

a dialog device for ~~centrally~~ providing a plurality of first voice channel-related functions at a central location in the network;

a plurality of announcement devices for ~~non-centrally~~ providing a plurality of voice channel-related functions at distributed locations within the ~~telecommunications~~ network, the second voice channel-related functions being used more frequently than the first voice channel-related functions; and

a central controller for controlling the first voice channel-related functions of the dialog device and the second voice channel-related functions of the announcement devices.

9. (previously presented) A telecommunications network according to claim 8, wherein the announcement devices provide the voice channel-related functions for both a circuit-switched data transmission network and a packet-switched data transmission network.

10. (previously presented) telecommunications network according to claim 9, wherein the announcement devices are implemented in a network interworking node between the first data transmission network and second data transmission network.

11. (previously presented) A telecommunications network according to claim 8, wherein the dialog device is implemented in a switching center for the second data transmission network or is

controlled by said switching center as external equipment of the second data transmission network.

12. (previously presented) A telecommunications network according to Claim 8, wherein the first voice channel-related functions comprise complex dialog functions, simple dialog functions, tones, and/or announcements and the second voice channel-related functions only include tones, announcements, and/or simple dialog functions.

13 (previously presented) A telecommunication according to Claim 8, wherein the first voice channel-related functions are transmitted over a first data transmission network and the second voice channel-related functions are transmitted over the first voice channel-related functions and/or a second data transmission network.

14. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the second data transmission network is a public telephone network and the first data transmission network is an IP-based data transmission network.

15. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the second voice channel-related functions are provided by an announcement device located in a network interworking node between the first and second data transmission network.

16. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 6, wherein the second voice channel-related functions are provided in each case by means of an announcement device located in each case in a network interworking node between the first and second data transmission network.